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*Consolidated  
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Cooperative*

*Consolidated  
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# Consolidated

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December 15, 1998

Office of the Secretary  
CC Docket No. 96-45  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 222  
1919 M Street NW  
Washington, D. C. 20054

## RURAL TELEPHONE COMPANY CERTIFICATION

Consolidated Telephone Cooperative files this certification statement pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Report and Order, CC Docket 96-45 released May 8, 1997. In Section VII, Paragraph 310 of the Order, the FCC stated that a carrier "must notify the Commission and its state commission that, for purposes of universal service support determinations, it meets the Section 3(37) definition of a rural carrier." Section 3(37) of the 1996 Telecommunications Act (the "Act") defines a "rural telephone company."

Consolidated Telephone Cooperative hereby certifies that:

1. Consolidated Telephone Cooperative is a "rural telephone company" as defined in the Act, 47 U.S.C. 153 (37). Consolidated Telephone Cooperative satisfies alternative definition (37)(B), fewer than 50,000 access lines.
2. Consolidated Telephone Cooperative provides telephone exchange service including exchange access in the following exchange areas in North Dakota:

<u>Exchange Prefix</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Access Lines</u>
275	Scranton	422
279	Rhame	470
548	Dunn Center	152
563	Regent	310
574	Ladd	52
677	South Heart	295
846	Dodge	103
853	Reeder	256
863	Grassy Butte	268
879	Amidon	128
938	Halliday	361
974	Richardton	723

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3. The "service area" or "study area" of Consolidated Telephone Cooperative is comprised of all of its exchange areas identified in paragraph 2 for purposes of section 214 of the Act and Consolidated Telephone Cooperative's designation as eligible telecommunications carrier for the service area. The total number of access lines served is 3,686 as published in the most reliable and recent compilation, the North Dakota Telephone Association 1998-99 Directory of North Dakota Telephone Companies.
4. Consolidated Telephone Cooperative has been designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier under the Act U.S.C. 214(e) by the North Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1998

CONSOLIDATED TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE

By: 

L. Dan Wilhelmson

Its: General Manager/CEO